



# R & D NEWS



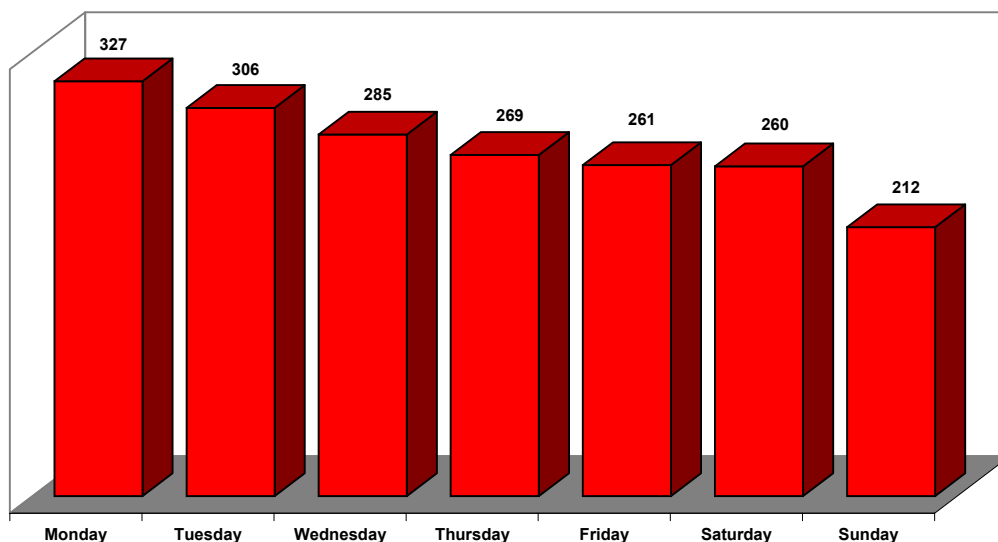
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## JUVENILE ASSAULTS OF STAFF AND OTHER JUVENILES WITHIN ADJC SECURE CARE: BY DAY OF WEEK



Howard Snyder, Juvenile Arrests 2001, OJJDP Juvenile Justice Bulletin, December 2003.

For the seventh consecutive year, the national rate of juvenile arrests for violent crime declined in 2001. In fact, there were 21% fewer juveniles arrested for violent crime in 2001 than were arrested for violent crimes in 1997. A larger decrease in juvenile arrests occurred in property crime. There were 29% fewer juveniles arrested for property crime in 2001 than were arrested for property crime in 1997. Snyder reports that there were essentially the same number of juveniles arrested for murder in 2001 as in 1970, when the U.S. population was 30% less. Meanwhile, the percentage of arrests referred to juvenile court and formally processed increased from 64% in 1990 to 72% in 2001. Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) remains a concern for juvenile justice professionals, however, "over the period from 1980 through 2001, the Black to White disparity in juvenile arrest rates for violent crimes declined. In 1980, the Black juvenile violent crime index arrest rate was 6.3 times the White rate; in 2001, the rate disparity had declined to 3.6." (9)

### ARIZONA JUVENILE JUSTICE TRIVIA

What are the most common type of assaults within ADJC secure care facilities?

Janet Lauritsen, How Families and Communities Influence Youth Victimization, OJJDP Juvenile Justice Bulletin, November 2003.

Using data obtained from the National Crime Victimization Survey, Lauritsen explored the relationship between characteristics of a juvenile's home or community, and the juvenile's likelihood of being a victim of a violent crime. Fully 72% of the violent crimes involving juveniles are simple assaults, which are followed in number by aggravated assaults (17%), robberies (8%) and sexual assaults (3%). Over two thirds (68%) of the violent offenses are *attempted* rather than completed incidents of violence. Lauritsen found that for 80% of the juveniles she studied, community characteristics were unlikely to account for variations in their risk of violence. She did find that for the remaining 20% of the juveniles, community characteristics were relevant to their risk of violent victimization. Juveniles at risk to be victims of violence tended to live in disadvantaged communities. Lauritsen found that juveniles face a higher risk for victimization when they live in disadvantaged areas because these areas contain greater proportions of juveniles living in single-parent families, and not because the areas are poorer, or have larger percentages of minorities. The author found that in disadvantaged communities, the ability of families to supervise juvenile activities was particularly important. She recommended that juvenile victimization prevention should place more emphasis upon juveniles in single-parent families. Lauritsen found that violent juvenile victimization was related to age, sex and time spent at home. Older juveniles were found to face a lower risk of victimization than younger juveniles, and males had a higher risk of violent victimization than females. Also, the more nights the juvenile spent at home per week, the less violence they were likely to experience. Violence risk was found to be unrelated to race or ethnicity once family and community factors were controlled. Lauritsen found that juveniles who live in areas with a high proportion of young people are more likely to be victimized by violence. The author concluded that the juveniles who are at the greatest risk for violent victimization are those who spend less time at home and have experienced frequent changes in their homes.

Jeffrey Butts, Juvenile Crime in Washington, D.C., Urban Institute, December 2003.

Butts reports that a few sensational violent crimes by juveniles in the Washington D.C. area have spawned calls to toughen penalties for juvenile offenders. Proposals have been made to increase the number of juveniles who are transferred to adult court, and thereby denied the rehabilitation programs offered by the juvenile court. The author observes that juvenile crime trends in Washington D.C. are similar to national trends, and that Washington D.C. juvenile violence in 2003 was significantly lower than it was 10 years ago. The author found a similar decrease in juvenile arrests for non-violent crimes such as burglary, larceny and auto theft. Butts found that the driving force behind the drop in juvenile arrests was the "stunning decline" (4) in male juvenile referrals to court. He found that violent crime in Washington D.C. was primarily an adult phenomena and noted that 92% of the murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault arrests made in July and August of 2003 involved adult offenders. Butts concluded this article by stating that the recent calls in Washington to toughen penalties for juvenile offenders was focusing on too small of a problem, and that "the juvenile justice system should be learning more about what worked during the last decade and why." (7)

#### **ARIZONA JUVENILE JUSTICE TRIVIA ANSWER**

Most assaults in 2003 involved *juveniles assaulting juveniles* (927 or 46.5%); followed by *mutually instigated fights* (581 or 29.1%) and *staff assaulted by juveniles* (484 or 24.3%). There were only two recorded instances of *juveniles assaulted by staff*. Assaults are increasing within the ADJC secure care facilities. On average, the ADJC had 137.7 assaults per month in 2002 and 166.2 assaults per month in 2003.